

Spring Meeting Minutes

Moose Lake Advancement Association

Wed., June 12, 2024 6:30 pm
Stone Bank School

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by President Rory Leyden, and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll call of Officers – Present: Rory Leyden, President; Hilarie Puestow, VP; Tom Kielma, Treasurer; Yvonne Lindl, Secretary; Sue Laabs, Dir; Bob Mikulec, Dir; Lynn Leidel, Dir.; Tammy Gallagher, Dir; Gery Sawall, Dir Absent: Sue Laabs, Dir.
3. November 6, 2023 Spring meeting minutes were approved with no corrections.
4. Tom Kielma presented the Treasurer's report.
 - The balance in checking as of May 31, 2024 is \$2,994.27 with \$13,662.89 in savings. Balances are higher than in most years since there was no weed treatment done in 2022 and a limited treatment done in 2023
 - Approximately \$2,000 in additional receipts were deposited in June.
5. Committee Reports
 - Invasive weed Treatment – Rory reported that Brian Suffern will be assessing the lake within 10 days to identify areas that need treatment.
 - Social Committee – Rory reported that the fishing event that was held this year was successful. A boat tie-up will be done in July and followed by a picnic in the fall.
 - Buoys – Bob Mikulec asked those responsible for buoy placement, to put them out soon so that visitors to the lake are aware of slow-no-wake areas and to protect the marker buoys. Bob has available supplies to repair buoys and related equipment if needed.
6. President Update – Rory Leyden
 - High water update – The lake is currently 5 1/2” above the slow-no-wake level after beginning the year below the slow-no-wake level. Several other area lakes had slow-no-wake restrictions also, but have had them lifted recently. We are essentially in the same situation as we have been in recent years. A plan was developed by the Board in 2019 for a pipe to drain excess water from Moose Lake into Okauchee. A survey in the 1800's showed Moose Lake was connected to Okauchee by a stream. To proceed, it would be necessary for homeowners on both sides of the pipe, including Okauchee, to approve it.
 - Approval would also be needed from the Okauchee Lake Management District which may initially oppose the drain but will likely agree to it if the DNR approves the project. The effect on Okauchee water levels is believed to be minimal. Waukesha County would also need to approve the placement of any pipe placed beneath a county highway. The State of Wisconsin would also require an environmental impact study. A significant factor to the DNR would be the presence of any invasive species in Moose Lake that could be introduced

into Okauchee as a result of the pipe. In 2019, the cost for the project was estimated at approximately \$120,000.

- The possibility of forming a Lake District was then discussed since the Town of Merton has recommended that one be formed. Advantages of a lake district that were cited included better long-term planning, the resulting formation of a governmental entity that is on equal standing with other governmental bodies, the ability to spread expenses over all owners in the form of a tax, and the ability to decide issues that the Town of Merton now controls. It also brings all lake organizations into a single body. A disadvantage that was noted was the possibility that the formation of a lake district could result in essentially an open checkbook with limited ability to control the amount of taxes assessed on owners.
- Hilarie Puestow shared information that she had found regarding lake districts. Such districts have legal standing and are governed by 5 commissioners, - 3 of which are elected by members of the district, plus 1 Town representative and 1 County representative. Organizers of the district determine its boundaries, create a petition to form the district, and provide information to the residents. Because all residents live in Waukesha County, the organizers would only need to deal with the Town. 51% of the owners must sign the petition. It is unclear how residents who own multiple properties are counted or how multiple owners listed on tax bills are counted in the determination of the 51%. We will need clarification regarding this.
- Rory proposed taking some of the Association's excess cash to do additional engineering work to strengthen the theory regarding a connecting stream and to obtain legal advice that could guide us in navigating the authorities. Rory suggested approximately 1/3 of our cash balance, or \$3,500-5,000, be approved for this purpose. A motion to authorize the Board to spend up to \$5,000 to advance the project and to look further into the formation of a lake district was approved.

7. Old business – None

8. New Business – Rory informed the membership of a recent survey taken by the State of Wisconsin regarding wake boats. Proposed legislation to restrict the use of such boats on small lakes since they often introduce invasive species into lakes through their ballast failed to pass. Rory suggested members consider requesting the Town of Merton ban such boats on our lake and asked any owners of such boats on Moose Lake to refrain from using them on our lake.

9. Adjournment – Motion was approved to adjourn at approximately 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Lindl